movement with the total and committed involvement of community leaders irrespective of denominational affiliation and linking population control with larger programmes of female literacy, women's employment, social security, access to health services, immunisation and mother and child care." This paper was endorsed unanimously in the National Development Council Meeting held on 23-24 December 1992.

(c) and (d): To impart a new thrust and dynamism to the Family Welfare Programme an Action Plan has been evolved by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in close consultation with the State Governments and Union Territories Administration. This Action & Plan has been endorsed by the Health Ministers of States/UTs in a conference held in January, 1992. Some of the activities listed therein envisage micro planning at the level of the States/UTs on which action is to be taken by them. Feed back from States/UTs is awaited.

Sale of Fluroide Tooth Pastes

3559. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to ban manufacture and sale of fluoridated tooth pastes ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) if not,)what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) to (c) The matter relating to Fluoride content in tooth paste has been examined by technical experts and it has been the view that the fluoride content in the tooth paste should be limited to 1000 ppm. For this purpose the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules 1945, have been amended on 19-4-1991 providing that the expiry date and the content of Fluoride should be mentioned on the lable of the tube and carton.

In view of the above position, there is no proposal to ban the manufacute and sale of Flouridated tooth pastes. However, another expert Committee under the Chairmanship of the Director-General, ICMR has been set up in the matter to *interalia* advise on the need to fluoride to tooth pastes and whether such addition is harmful for children below the age of 7 years.

3560. [*Transferred to the 26th March*, 1992.]

Setting up of Medical/Dental Colleges

3561. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the guide lines in regard to establishing Medical and Dental Colleges ;

(b) whether it is a fact that some states are allowing mushroom growth of private colleges, without following the directions of Union Government as well as Medical and Dental Councils ; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) to (c) The Medical Council of India and the Dental Council of India have prescribed the minimum standard requirements which should be ful-

filled before granting approval for conducting various courses by Education Institutions. These Councils have brought to the notice of the Government some cases of Medical & Dental Colleges having been set up through their do not fulfil the prescribed standards. The Govt. of India have been requesting various State Govts. from time to time not to permit the opening of Medical and Dental Colleges which do not fulfil the minimum standards prescribed by the concerned Councils. There are no provisions in the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 or in the Dentists Act, 1948 requiring prior permission of the concerned Council before establishing a Medical/Dental College. This lacunae is proposed to be removed by bringing in suitable amendments to both these Acts.

3562. [*Trqnsferred to the* 27th *March,* 1992]

Health service in Kashmir Valley

3563. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the health services in the Kashmir Valley have come to a standstill ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that PHCs and other health care set ups are non-functional and the people are suffering ; and

(c) what measures are being taken to remedy the situation and to reach the suffering population ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) to (c) The State Government has informed that the infrastructure of public health services in the valley is working normally and rendering health care services.

Society for Voluntary Action for Family Welfare and Health

3564. SHRI N. E. BALARAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a society called "Voluntary Action for Family Welfare and Health" and if so the expenditure envisaged thereon ;

(b) whether there is a need of society and what are the objectives ; and

(c) whether it is advisable to set up a new venture with high financial implications when existing voluntary organisation like the Voluntary Health Association of India and other can be utilized for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) A proposal to set up a Society called "Voluntary Action for Family Welfare and Health (VAFAH)" is under consideration. Its expenditure levels and other parameters are yet to be decided.

(b) Family Welfare has by and large remained as a Government's programme. For making it a peoples' programme, it is felt that greater number of non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) including Voluntary agencies and grass root level organisations representing the people should come up for implementing this programme. For this purpose a need has been felt for setting up a specific organisation outside the Government which could deal with the NGOs and enjoy the necessary autonomy and flexibility which is not available within the Government. The main objectives of VAFAH are to identify, motivate and promote existing or new NGOs to undertake model schemes to be drawn up by the Society and render